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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Krishna A. BHARAT et al. §
 Serial No.: 09/418,418 §
 Filed: 10/15/1999 §
 For: Method For Ranking §
 Hypertext Search Results §
 By Analysis Of Hyperlinks §
 From Expert Documents §
 And Keyword Scope §

Confirmation No.: 8878
 Group Art Unit: 2172
 Examiner: B. N. To
 Docket No.: 200308296-1

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Technology Center 2100

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop RCE
 Commissioner for Patents
 PO Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: December 2, 2003

Sir:

In response to the final Office action of October 2, 2003, please enter this Preliminary Amendment and corresponding Request for Continued Examination and amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.